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The Willington School.

Editor Press and Banner

I find in the columns of your paper of July 7th, an article, written it would seem from its tone and temper, for the purpose of disparaging Dr. Waddell and his celebrated school at Willington, one of the most famous and successful teachers ever known in this country, if we are to judge by the number of distinguished men, who received their Academic training under him, as well as by the number of less extensively known more humble, but nevertheless useful citizens, who were once his pupils. Many of the latter, although "unknown to fame," exerted a powerful influence in moulding the character of a large and intelligent portion of the District. To the former was South Carolina greatly indebted for the high position which she once occupied among the States of the Union.

It is far from my intention to utter a word in detraction of the teachers mentioned in your article. Some have done and are still doing useful work and many of their pupils have been an honor to the State, but when you make unfair and unjust comparisons between any of these teachers, and their pupils, and Dr. Waddell and his pupils, I must enter a protest, particularly when such comparisons are made to the disadvantage of the latter.

To what legend is it that you refer as having been "so often repeated by Judges, literary speakers and orators that the people know in by heart notwithstanding the fact that all such statements or inferences, are subject to a thousand disprovals by tangible facts and by volumes of indisputable evidence yet strange as it may appear no man has ever corrected these statements."

Strange indeed passing strange, that it was reserved for the editor of the *Press and Banner* to correct the "error of these statements" which have been repeated for nearly three-fourths of a century "by Judges, literary speakers and orators," during the lifetime of those most deeply interested in their correction and at a time when the "tangible facts" by which to disprove them were more accessible than they are to the editor of the *Press and Banner*. You charge Col. Harry Hammond with a "lack of correctness in historical facts," which, you say, "it is presumed he intended to perpetuate in his excellent history of South Carolina in mentioning the Willington Academy as conducted by Dr. Waddell, without naming any other," and refers to Col. Hammond's statement that "the wild woods of the Savannah resounded with the echoes of Homer and Virgil, and Cicero and Horace as the winged words issued from the lips of this venerable preceptor or his ardent disciples." Wherein has Col. Hammond been guilty of "incorrectness in historical facts" let me ask? Has he misstated them? Or does his great sin consist in his eulogizing the renowned teacher and his "ardent disciples"? Has such praise repeated as it has been for more than half a century by "Judges, literary speakers, and orators" because unpleasant? Does it suggest silent comparisons?

There were those in Athens who became tired of hearing Aristides called "The Just" and he was banished.

You say that "the story of Dr. Waddell's school is always incomplete without reference to Geo. McDuffie whose name is mentioned in religious respect, not only for his greatness but for the honor of his teacher, and after his name a half dozen other lesser lights are usually tacked on as a tail to the kite," and you assert that you "can name as many and as great men who were taught by James L. Lesley as were ever taught by Dr. Waddell."

You charge Col. Hammond with "perverting historical facts" because he omits to mention any other school excepting Dr. Waddell's, but have you not been guilty of a greater perversion of historical facts, not only in making the charge against Col. Hammond which is not true as he does mention several other schools in the county besides Dr. Waddell's but in trying to make it appear that Dr. Waddell's fame as a teacher rises alone upon his having taught McDuffie.

Dr. Waddell's fame as a teacher does not rest upon the reputation of any one pupil, so other names as distinguished as McDuffie or even more so could be mentioned.

cled the pupils taught by Mr. Lesley whom it is claimed by you was "a greater teacher than Dr. Waddell ever was," and you assert that you "can name as many and as great men who were taught by the former as were taught by the latter." Now for the proof. You have published your roll, and although comparisons are odious, I will accept your challenge and leave it to an unprejudiced public decide.

From among the names of Dr. Waddell's pupils I'll mention Wm. H. Crawford of Georgia, Eldred Simkins and John C. Calhoun, then a few years after these come W. D. Martin Judge and M. C. James L. Pettigru, the eminent lawyer; Andrew Covan, M. C.; Hugh S. Legare, M. C., Attorney General, Foreign and Cabinet Minister; George McDuffie, M. C., Governor, United States Senator; George R. Tillman, M. C. and Governor Georgia; George Carey, M. C. Georgia; John Walker, M. C., Alabama; Henry W. Collier, M. C. and Chancellor, Alabama; George W. Crawford, M. C. and Governor, Georgia; Patrick Noble, Governor; D. L. Wardlaw, Judge; F. H. Wardlaw, Chancellor; A. B. Longstreet Judge, President of Oxford College and also of South Carolina College; and lastly the inimitable Ned Bruce of the "Georgia Scenes." Do you call all of these small lights? even lesser than—McDuffie? Are there not many even in the above list before whose brilliancy your list dwindles and pales? How many colleges are there that can boast such an array of great names upon the roll of their Alumni? Some of them have made reputations not confined to the American Continent, and will you compare any pupil ever taught by any of the teachers named by you to some of these? In a tribute to Dr. Waddell one of his distinguished pupils said: "From under the teachings of this man have gone forth one Vice President, and many Foreign and Cabinet ministers, and Senators, Congressmen, Governors, Judges, Presidents and Professors of colleges, eminent divines, barristers, jurists, legislators, physicians, military and naval officers."

Are all these statements and inferences subject to a thousand disprovals by tangible facts and volumes of indisputable evidence? If so, I call upon you to disprove them. You have undertaken to do so, and after voluntarily assuming the responsibility you will be expected to do it. Although, as you have said, these statements have been "repeated by Judges, literary speakers and orators, until the public know them by heart," still no one in all that time has ventured to deny them. You have given the names of several who were not taught by Mr. Lesley. Eldred Simkins was a pupil of Dr. Waddell in 1800 at the same time with W. H. Crawford and John C. Calhoun, long before Mr. Lesley was born. Whitfield Brooks, father of Hon. Preston S., was a student in the South Carolina College in 1812, also before or near about the time Mr. Lesley was born. T. C. Perrin was in college in 1826, six years in advance of Mr. Lesley who was in the class of 1832. W. C. Moragne went to college from the Willington school with P. S. Brooks and H. G. Middleton with whom he roomed so the latter informed me. Mr. Editor, when your list is reduced to its proper length, some of the most important and prominent names are lost to the tail of your elaborate kite. So, Mr. Editor, you must reconstruct it. Another error into which you have fallen is the statement made by you that "about the same time that Dr. Waddell taught his famous school at Willington there was an institution of learning at Due West presided over by such as the Presslys and Youngs." "From the year 1806 to 1810," says the author to whom I am indebted for much valuable information about the Willington school taught by Dr. Waddell, "was the most fruitful of great men of any period of the same length, during the whole time of Dr. Waddell's instructorship, and it was during the periods including these dates that he sent forth the McDuffies, Legares, &c." The academy at Due West was not in existence at that time.

I will make no issue with you, Mr. Editor, as to the comparative greatness of McDuffie and any one whom you may consider greater, neither your opinion nor mine is of any consequence, and can neither add to nor detract from their fame, but I can at least give the opinions of those eminently capable of judging. Dr. Thornwell at an alumni dinner at Yale College in responding to a senti-

ment proposed in honor of the South Carolina College, said "as I boasted in no vain spirit however at Cambridge, so I boast here that we have produced at least one scholar of which any College and any country might well be proud. No name stands higher in this country than Hugh S. Legare. In the works of public life though we are not yet fifty years old we have sent men to the councils of the nation with whom it was perilous for the boldest and best from other quarters to enter the lists in intellectual strife. Need I tell you of McDuffie? He was one of the few men that could still to silence and chain in profoundest attention that most tumultuous, most disorderly, most ungovernable of all public bodies, the House of Representatives of the United States. It hung with breathless interest on his lips. Like Pericles, for it was of Pericles and not Demosthenes, that Aristophanes wrote the sentence he wielded at will that fierce democratic."

In concluding Dr. Thornwell proposed as a toast "A name which is found on the list of your alumni, and may I not say it, it is rather a glory to you than to him that his name is found on your catalogue."

Now, Mr. Editor, upon such an occasion, in the presence of statesmen, literary men and orators, Dr. Thornwell, a college president, and a man known throughout the Union, in presenting to the assembly two names from the list of graduates of the South Carolina College "of whom any college and any country might well be proud," he said, named two who had been taught by Dr. Waddell at his "little Willington school," and the one whose name Dr. Thornwell gave as toast was also a pupil under the same teacher, all three Dr. Waddell's pupils.

In Gov. Perry's "Reminiscences of Public Men," he says: "I once heard Gov. Orr tell Mrs. Wade Hampton, the daughter of Gen. McDuffie, that Colonel Benton said to him many years ago that McDuffie was the equal of Demosthenes in his prime. He could stir up the human heart as few public speakers have been able to do in ancient or modern times."

Gov. Perry in speaking of McDuffie says: "He had no rival at the bar and stood alone. Indeed he was a great man and a great orator. His style of speaking was Demosthenian, and for invective and denunciation he was the equal of the great Athenian. His replies in debate were terrific."

I once heard Col. Wm. Preston, who was a college-mate of McDuffie, say that he fully sustained in college the brilliant reputation which he had gained at Dr. Waddell's school, and stood at the head of his class from the first without any contestant. He also said that he considered McDuffie one of the greatest orators of his age.

Will such men as Dr. Thornwell, Col. Benton, Col. Preston and Gov. Perry, not be considered good authority? I am thus particular, as comparison is made between McDuffie and others, and I wish to prove that he was regarded as a truly great man by those who were highly competent of forming a correct estimate of him. I give the recorded opinion of others. There is no "legend" about this, Mr. Editor. Such a man with such a record would be a considerable "tail to any kite"—a meteoric one. But McDuffie was only one of the many of Dr. Waddell's pupils who became famous. Are there not some whose names are not even more extensively known than McDuffie? Then how can you say that you "can name as many and as great men who were taught by James L. Lesley as were ever taught by Dr. Waddell?"

In your notice of Prof. R. Means Davis' address in Due West, at the Normal Institute in which he took issue with you in your depreciation of Dr. Waddell and McDuffie, at which he was loudly applauded, you say that you had been doing a little "image breaking." If you had in fact destroyed the images, you erected nothing better in their stead, but you are innocent of the act, however criminal may have been your intention. The images are still standing intact, they have only been a little banded. In the same paper you admit that Dr. Waddell was a good teacher, but deny that he was a good scholar. I will not undertake to pass judgment on his scholarship, but let his work speak for itself. You say that James L. Lesley had a better school and was a "greater" teacher than Dr. Waddell ever was.

From what do you judge? By results? Look at the list of great men taught by Dr. Waddell, and if you judge by the thorough preparation of his pupils for college which is after all, perhaps, about as sure a test as any we can produce. I'll direct your attention to the fact that he prepared John C. Calhoun for the Junior class in Yale College in two years after he commenced the study of Latin and Greek, and I have in my possession a letter written by one of the former Governors of South Carolina, upwards of three quarters of a century ago, from Princeton College, in which he says: "I was examined by the faculty of the college to-day, and was admitted into the Junior class." No "legend" or tradition about this. The "tangible facts" are in my possession by which to prove what I say. McDuffie also entered the Junior class in the South Carolina College. Now let the public judge whether or not any country school teacher could have established such a reputation as he did, could have achieved such wonderful results, and could have prepared pupils so well for the Junior class in such colleges as Princeton, Yale and the South Carolina College where they at once took the first rank without being a good scholar?

Dr. Waddell's admirers do not claim for him that he was a profound scholar, nor do they claim as you say they do, that he was "the only great teacher we ever had," but they do claim that he was one of the best, if not the most successful teacher, ever known in this country, and they moreover challenge a comparison between the pupils taught by him and those taught by any other one teacher in the Union. The list is one to which his countrymen can point with pride. But let me here say that the credit of producing such grand results must not be given to Dr. Waddell, although it is largely due to him. There is no doubt but that he had better material to work upon than was furnished other teachers, some of his pupils would have been great if Dr. Waddell had never lived. You say that it "was not possible for Dr. Waddell to have taught as successfully with his old books and methods as the teachers of the present day with the new books and new methods now in use." So much the more credit is due Dr. Waddell judging by what he accomplished in the absence of such advantages as the teachers have in the present day. But would not his method be new to-day? And may not his success be largely due to it, which is now perhaps one of the "lost arts"? One of his pupils of the year 1808, who in after life became widely known thus graphically describes it: "His government was one of touching moral suasion, but he administered it in a new way. Instead of infusing it gently into the head and heart, and letting it percolate through the system and slowly neutralize the ill humors with which it came in contact he applied it to the extremities, and drove it right up to the head and heart by percussion. He seemed to regard vices as consuming fires and adopted the engine process of extinguishing them."

X. Y. Z.

A Mysterious Tragedy.

(Greenville News, August 15th)

Thomas J. Cureton is a respectable and well known farmer who lives in Grove township, nine miles from the city, on what is known as the "old Adams' mill" place. His house is about 280 yards from the Reedy River where it is yet dammed for a mill which has been abandoned. Mrs. Cureton is a daughter of John Adams, of this city, and like her husband has a number of relatives living here, all people of the highest respectability.

On Friday Mr. and Mrs. Cureton came to the city, leaving the house and their younger children in charge of their daughter Mary A. Cureton, known as "Mamie," a handsome girl of eighteen years. According to the testimony of one of the children, a girl of ten years, a young white man drove to the Cureton's gate in a buggy about 10 o'clock in the morning and handed Mamie, who went to him, a note. The child overheard him say something about meeting somebody.

"AT THE RIVER AT ONE O'CLOCK." The man, who had come from the direction of the city then drove away. Miss Cureton returned to the house, dressed herself in her best clothes and distributed her other clothes and

trinkets among the children, leaving with them a handsome gold ring that her father had given her and putting on her finger a plain black gutta percha ring. She then kissed them good bye, saying she was going off to be married and left. They made some attempt to follow or detain her but were repulsed. When Mr. and Mrs. Cureton returned at night they were astonished and distressed by finding their daughter gone, and by the account they received from the children of her departure. She had no love affair that they knew of, but they were forced to believe that she had run off to be married, although they were at a loss to imagine who she had gone with. A messenger was sent to the nearest preacher, but no information was received and nothing more could be done until yesterday morning. Then the direction in which the missing girl was going when last seen was obtained from the children and search was begun. In a path leading through a cotton field to the river Miss Cureton's tracks were found. They were followed easily in the soft ground to

THE BRINK OF THE RIVER

where a high and steep bank leads down to the deepest part of the mill pond, the water being about ten feet deep there. Down this bank there were distinct marks of the heels of her shoes where she had slid from the top to the water, apparently standing straight with her feet close together. The neighbors were called, and with poles and hooks made for the occasion the pond was carefully dragged. After a long and trying search, impeded much by logs and bushes which have accumulated in the pond,

THE BODY WAS FOUND

about 100 feet down the river from the place on the bank described above. It was brought to the surface by a pole which had caught in the dress. The young lady had apparently died peacefully and without pain. There was no distortion of the face and the arms were crossed on the breast as if arranged for the burial. Everything about the body was just as Miss Cureton had left her home for the last time.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

Coroner McBee was notified by W. Lenderman, who found the body, and immediately went to the scene of the tragedy. A jury of intelligent citizens was summoned and the inquest was begun. Dr. G. Tupper Swandale, of this city, made a careful examination of the body. He found that death had been caused by drowning and that there had been no other injury, and his autopsy and evidence based on it failed to give the least clue to the mystery. The facts already given were brought out by the testimony. The closest examination of the place where Miss Cureton evidently went into the water failed to discover any track but her's or the least evidence of a struggle. Her father and mother testified that she had at times during her life been in a condition of mind in which she did not have the full use of her faculties, although she had never been violent or really insane. It would have been easy enough to conclude from this that the unfortunate girl had gone to the river while suffering from a slight attack of insanity and fallen in accidentally or purposely drowned herself. But the case was made mysterious and the jury was perplexed by the story of

THE STRANGE MAN FROM THE CITY, the note and the conversation about the meeting at the river, told by the child. Close and sharp examination failed to shake her evidence. The statement she had first made was stuck to every detail so faithfully as to carry conviction of its truth. The grief stricken parents could give no idea of who the man was or what was in the note, which could not be found anywhere. No man had been particularly attentive to Miss Cureton and it would have been almost impossible for her, living at home and as quietly as she did, to have had friends who were unknown to the children or could not be recognized from their description. Her good character was beyond a whisper of question, and all the evidence went to prove that she was without doubt as pure a girl as ever breathed. The jury could only find

AN OPEN VERDICT

and rendered one to the effect that the deceased came to her death from causes unknown. The general belief is that the appearance of the man with the note

was merely a coincidence, that it was somebody on business with Mr. Cureton, and that the child got the fragment of conversation she overheard confused with something her sister said, or with her subsequent departure for the river at one o'clock. If this be true, publication of the facts ought to bring an explanation, and it will be evident that the tragedy was the result of accident or design in the time of mental distraction. Otherwise the mystery will remain, for it cannot be imagined what person would have a motive for luring Miss Cureton to the river bank to murder her or how a murder could have been committed without a trace of murder or struggle being left. Another theory that Miss Cureton may have really gone to meet some friend and fallen into the river while waiting is met by the fact that nobody was seen in the neighborhood and that no affair of the kind could have been carried to that length without the knowledge of the family. Sympathy for the relatives of the dead girl is general and deep, and as deep, as is the hope that the uncertainty surrounding her death may yet be cleared up.

Signs of Rain.

Dr. Edward Jenner, the famous English physician, was once asked by a friend to take a long walk next day. Dr. Jenner declined on the plea that it was going to rain. He made a rhyming list of the signs whereby he looked for rain to come. He based it on the actions of animals. Afterwards Charles Darwin, the great naturalist, watched the animals named and found that before a rain they acted in every case in the manner told by the verses. It will interest all boys and girls who like to study nature on their own account, to watch for the signs themselves:

The hollow winds begin to blow,
The clouds are black, the glass is low,
The soot falls down, the spinnets sleep,
And spiders from their cobwebs peep.
Last night the sun went pale to bed,
The moon in halos hid her head;
The boding shepherd heaves a sigh,
For, see! a rainbow spans the sky.
The walls are damp, the ditches small;
Closed is the pink-eyed pimpernel.
Hark, how the chairs and tables creak!
Old Betty's nerves are on the rack.
Loud quacks the duck, the peacocks cry,
The distant hills are seeming nigh.
How restless are the snorting swine!
The busy flies disturb the kine.
Low o'er the grass the swallow wings;
The cricket, too, how sharp he sings!
Puss on the hearth, with velvet paws,
Sits wiping o'er her whiskered jaws.
Through the clear streams the fishes rise,
And nimbly catch the incautious flies.
The glowworms numerous and light,
Illumed the dewy dell last night.
At dusk the squalid toad was seen
Hopping and crawling o'er the green.
The whirling dust the wind obeys,
And in the rapid eddy plays.
The frog has changed his yellow vest,
And in a russet coat is dressed.
Though June, the air is cold and still,
The mellow blackbird's voice is shrill.
My dog so altered in his taste,
Quits mutton bones on grass to feast.
And see yon rooks, how odd their flight!
They imitate the gliding kite.
And seem precipitate to fall,
As if they felt the piercing ball.
'Twill surely rain. I see with sorrow
Our jaunt must be put off to-morrow.

When you are constipated, with loss of appetite, headache, take one of Dr. J. H. McLean's Little Liver and Kidney Pills. They are pleasant to take and will cure you in 5 cents a box.

Don't suppose if you have that pain through the right side and shoulder blade, that yellowness of skin and whites of the eyes, and ured appearance of the tongue, that these indications are of little account, or will depart by themselves; much better take Dr. J. H. McLean's Homeopathic Liver and Kidney Pills, and remedy the trouble. 25c. per box, for sale by all druggists.

Disease lies in ambush for the weak; feeble constitution is ill adapted to encounter a malarious atmosphere and sudden changes of temperature, and the least robust are usually the easiest victims. Dr. J. H. McLean's Stomach, Cordial and Blood Purifier will give tone, and vitality and strength to your entire body. \$1.00 per bottle.

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Stomach comes uninvited, but if it has with healthy and active liver and kidneys with pure blood we are impregnable to attack. The best invigorant is Dr. J. H. McLean's Liver and Kidney Balm.